



On September 1, 2005 James C. Epolito was named the new president and chief executive officer of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), the state's lead economic development agency. In that capacity, Mr. Epolito has oversight for the administration of the 21st Century Jobs Fund initiative and directs economic policy development, business retention and attraction, technology development, trade and international investment, tourism promotion and marketing and community development functions. On December 13, 2005, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm announced that Mr. Epolito would serve as a member of her Cabinet. He has responsibility for the successful implementation of the Governor's small-tech business growth and jobs creation agenda. Mr. Epolito works in coordination with the entire Cabinet and has a focus on job creation through the following sectors; life sciences, alternative energy, advanced automotive manufacturing and homeland security and defense.

Mr. Epolito joined Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) in June 1978 as a legislative analyst and rose through the ranks of the organization. From January 1995 through May of 2005, Mr. Epolito was president and CEO of Accident Fund Insurance Company of America and senior vice president of subsidiary operations, BCBSM. From January 1992 through July 1995, he was president and CEO of Blue Care Network – Health Central. In addition, Mr. Epolito served as BCBSM's vice president of state and federal governmental affairs.

Mr. Epolito received his bachelor's degree in communications from Michigan State University in 1978 where he received a varsity football scholarship. Mr. Epolito also received a master's in public administration from Western Michigan University in 1992. He completed the executive program at the University of Missouri - National Institute for Managed Care Administration in 1992, and was certified in workers' compensation from Salve Regina University in 1995.

Mr. Epolito has been recognized because of his exceptional leadership, professional achievement and personal dedication and service to the community. This recognition includes:

- Michigan State University, Distinguished Alumni Award (1998)
- Michigan Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Distinguished Leadership Award (2005)
- Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, Community Service Award, 2006

Mr. Epolito serves as a director at Capital Bancorp and the Venture Michigan Fund. He was recently appointed as the chairman of the Michigan Strategic Fund.

Mr. Epolito continues his civic responsibility and is involved in Michigan State University (MSU) Safe Place, an abused women's shelter, the Capital Choice campaign, the Capital Area United Way and the United Negro College Fund.

Jim Epolito lives in East Lansing with his wife Deborah, and has three daughters aged 23, 20 and 15.